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REVIEWS.

Department of Geology and Natural Resources of Indiana, Twenty-fourth Annual Report. By W. S. BLATCHLEY, State Geologist. Indianapolis, Ind., 1899.

The current report is a healthy-looking volume of 1078 pages, devoted mainly to the natural history of the state, exclusive of geology. It is well printed and bound, and but one criticism need be made of its typographical make-up, namely, that the title upon the back is not uniform in style and does not align with the titles of preceding volumes; nor they with each other, for that matter.

W. S. Blatchley (pp. 3–40) gives a brief résumé of the natural resources of the state, embodying the salient points appearing in previous reports of the department, together with such facts and statistics as have been brought in the recent work of the department.

Aug. F. Foerste (pp. 41–80) in an interesting paper discusses the synonomy and correlation of the Middle Devonian of Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio, as embraced in the Cincinnati Anticlinal Region. The formations involved are the Madison beds (Upper Ordovician), Clinton, and Osgood Shale (Lower Niagara). The Madison beds, unfossiliferous and somewhat arenaceous, have caused much confusion, being variously classed as Clinton, Medina, and Ordovician. The various formations referred to the Medina around the flanks of the Cincinnati Anticline are to be correlated with the Madison beds. The oolitic iron-ore facies of the Clinton does not appear west of the Cincinnati axis, the Clinton being represented by a thin, salmon-colored limestone.

The author's opinions regarding the date of the Cincinnati Uplift may be quoted here in advance of the fuller conclusions promised at an early date. "The considerable variation in thickness of these limestones . . . . suggests that the Clinton lies unconformably upon the Lower Silurian, and that this unconformity could be well established if a careful study of this problem were made. The writer was, however, not able to find anything suggesting that this unconformity was in any way related to the formation of the Cincinnati axis. If the elevation of the Cincinnati axis began in Middle Silurian this still remains to be proved. There is ample proof of local elevations in various parts of Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio, but not of any connection between these elevations and the formation of the Cincinnati axis. . . . . The result of all my investigations for the last five years in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana have tended to confirm the conclusion that at the close of the Upper Silurian a considerable part of the folding which now constitutes the Cincinnati axis took place; that a period of denudation took place, removing most strata from the axis of this fold, and proportionally smaller amounts from its flanks; and that the Devonian rests unconformably upon the denuded Upper Silurian rocks upon the flanks of the axis, and that it rests upon Lower Silurian upon the middle portions of this axis."

J. A. Price (pp. 81–143, with map) outlines the distribution of the Waldron shale (Upper Niagara) through Decatur, Rush, Shelby, and Bartholomew counties, and gives numerous detailed sections covering the Devonian-Silurian parting. The name Hartsville limestone is proposed for a bed of limestone ranging up to ten feet in thickness, lying between the Waldron shale and the Devonian limestone. It is considered to be Silurian in age and as probably the equivalent of the Louisville limestone of Foerste. An interesting case of postglacial stream diversion is noted in the northwestern part of Decatur county. Flat Rock and Little Flat Rock creeks, flowing in southwesterly directions through old valleys, join near Downeyville and flow west through a narrow valley. From near the junction an old col extends to the present valley of Clifty Creek, near Milford. The glacial and preglacial course of the two branches of Flat Rock was through this old col and down Clifty Creek. Later they were diverted into the present valley of Flat Rock.

E. B. Williamson (pp. 229–333, pls. I–VII) on the Dragonflies of Indiana, gives keys for their identification, directions for collecting and preserving, and descriptions of those species known to occur in the state.

R. E. Call (pp. 335–536, pls. I–LXXVII) contributes a most complete and well-illustrated descriptive catalogue of the mollusca of Indiana, including bibliography, keys, and notes on the habits and distribution of all forms found in the state.

W. S. Blatchley (pp. 537–552) in a brief paper describes the batrachians and reptiles of Vigo county.

Stanley Coulter (pp. 553–1002) gives a comprehensive catalogue of the flowering plants, and ferns and their allies, indigenous to the state. The paper includes a bibliography and a voluminous introduction, with sections on the ecologic distribution of the plants (particularly those of the dunes), re-forestation, poisonous plants, and noxious weeds.

The reports of the state inspectors of mines, gas, and oil are also incorporated into the report. From these we learn that the production of coal for 1899 exceeded by 14 per cent. that of any preceding year, while the petroleum product shows an increase in value of 50 per cent. The average rock pressure in the natural-gas field is 155 pounds, as compared with 173 pounds in 1898, foreshadowing the early exhaustion of this popular fuel.

C. E. S.

The Geography of the Region about Devil's Lake and the Dalles of the Wisconsin, with some notes on its Surface Geology. By ROLLIN D. SALISBURY and WALLACE W. ATWOOD. Bulletin No. 5, and No. 1 of the Educational Series of the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey. Published by the State. Madison, Wis., 1900.

It is seldom that a state report is readable for one who is not a geologist, or of more than local interest; but the bulletin just issued by the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey is an exception. The bulletin is a volume of 151 pages with 39 plates and 47 cuts. It is one of the handsomest volumes ever issued by a state survey. The photograph is the best medium for describing nature clearly and sharply, and it has been used to good advantage throughout the report.

The report is a description of the geography and surface geology about Devil's Lake and the Dalles of the Wisconsin. Perhaps there is no region in the interior where more objects of geological interest are found in an area of a few square miles than in the territory about Devil's Lake. All the various types of topography developed by glacial action are seen in contrast with those of the driftless area, and several problems in structural geology are presented. River phenomena especially those connected with the ice invasion, are numerous. One of the best features of the book is the illustrations. The mechanical work is excellent, and each plate is typical of what it illustrates.